

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 20, 2009

Dear Chairman Murtha and Ranking Member Young:

Every year, more than 242,000 women and men are diagnosed with breast cancer and more than 41,000 will die. Unfortunately, we do not yet know how to prevent, cure or reliably detect the disease at its earliest stages. This is a serious health issue that must be a national priority. While we do not yet have the answers, we do have the best scientists and medical research community in the world. We are confident that with the right investments we can find a cure.

The Appropriations Committee has shown great determination and leadership in the search for answers by funding the Department of Defense (DOD) Peer-Reviewed Breast Cancer Research Program (BCRP) every year since 1992 at a level that has brought us closer to eradicating this disease. The DOD BCRP's progress in the fight against breast cancer has been made possible by your subcommittee's investment in breast cancer research. **To continue this unprecedented progress, we ask that you include \$150 million for the DOD BCRP in the fiscal year (FY) 2009 Department of Defense Appropriations bill text.**

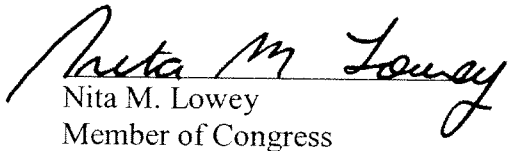
The DOD BCRP has established itself as a model medical research program. The critical work of this program must be continued at this level of funding for the following reasons:

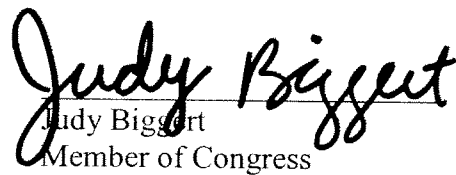
- **It is innovative and unique.** The program has a unique grants structure that allows it to be more flexible and fund innovative, high-risk, high-return research. The program is able to quickly respond to current scientific advances, and is able to fill gaps by focusing on research that is traditionally under-funded.
- **It is a demonstrated success.**
 - The Institute of Medicine, in two analyses of the program, overwhelmingly supports the DOD BCRP's continuation, stating "the program fills a unique niche among public and private funding sources for cancer research. It is not duplicative of other programs and is a promising vehicle for forging new ideas and scientific breakthroughs in the nation's fight against breast cancer."
 - Incredible discoveries that offer fascinating insights into the biology of breast cancer have come as a result of the DOD BCRP. For example, the **DOD BCRP funded a vital component of the revolutionary work that led to the development of the innovative drug Herceptin.** From new methods of extracting breast cancer cells at their earliest stages, to unprecedented research into gene/environment interaction and quality of life issues, this program leads the way in generating new approaches to breast cancer prevention, treatment, and early detection.

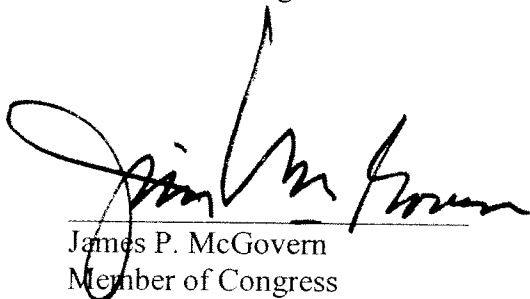
- **It is efficient.** In fact, 90% of the appropriated funds go directly to competitive, peer-reviewed research grants awarded only to the best science.
- **It is transparent and accountable to the public.**
 - This is evidenced by the inclusion of consumer advocates at both the peer- and programmatic- review levels. The consumer perspective helps scientists understand how the research will affect the community and allows for funding decisions based on the concerns and needs of patients and the medical community.
 - Each researcher who receives funds from the program must present their results to the public online at the DOD BCRP website and at public meetings called "Era of Hope." The transparency of the DOD BCRP allows scientists, consumers and the American public to see the exceptional progress made in breast cancer research. The next installment of these exciting meetings will take place this year in Baltimore, MD.

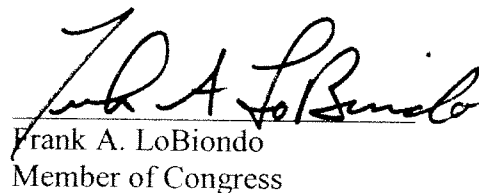
The millions of Americans living with breast cancer, as well as their friends and families, hope that a means of preventing, curing, and better treating this disease will soon be found. To help further the search for answers, **we ask that you fund the DOD BCRP at \$150 million for FY2009 in the Department of Defense Appropriations bill text.**

Sincerely,


Nita M. Lowey
Member of Congress


Judy Biggert
Member of Congress


James P. McGovern
Member of Congress


Frank A. LoBiondo
Member of Congress

Anna Titus

Michael E. McMahon

Ken K.

C. M.

Christopher P. Chang

Melissa J. Bear

Wendy Shomyn

Alfred Dyson

Hed Doggett

Jim Sengwein

Paul Tonko

Charles C. Jozala

W. C.

Jim C.

Charles W. Dett

Charles B. Schaff

Tha Murphy

Stephanie Sarah Sardin

Mike Dyer

Patrick O. Kennedy

Brian Hesse

Allison & Schuster

Charlie White

Joe C. Gray

Reilly Warren Schuff

Michael Arcene

Scott Garrett

Jay M. King

Jim Z.

Jean Schmidt

Pat & Mary

Jason Altman

Sam Fain

Lucille Lopez Allard

John Russell

Dan Burton

Howard L. Berman

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Tom Tatham

Rosa L. Delanno

Fred Lupton

Nili Ungar

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R.

Jable Giffords
Ann Carraway
Tara Cullen
Joan L. Davis
Raul M. Lijalva
Harry E. Mitchell
Ann Sue
Steve Kager, no
B. M. H.
Mary Jo Hilary
Bob Eick
John W. Oliver
Gene Gales
Earl Cline
Hendrick B. Heath
Jim M. Bennett

Kim VanHolle
Grace S. Napolitano
Mazie H. Herero
Lance L. Buell
Ron Kind
Michael E. Capone
D. Hodes
Mike Cutler
Sandy Per.
Dave Lockwood
Steve King
Lois Caputo
Jo Ann
Yvette D. Clarke
Eric J. Green
J. J. V. H.

William L. Watt

Chas Fittel

Robert Wagh

Brad Sherman

Erin E. Grimsy

Joe E. Senant

T. Hdd

Jan Ann

Bill Melakut

Jim Matheson

~~Art R.~~

Bill Pasorell Jr

Louise M. Haugter

~~Gregory W. Muto~~

Alced. Hastings

Chris Smith

Harold Wefman

Earl Blumman

Barnes Frank

Joseph D. - Baker

Elouen

Wm. Lacy Clay

~~Art~~
Jimmy Balshin

Mike Meditzger

Bob Selner

T. Hdd

Nydia M. Velazquez

Melanie Waters

Chas D. Dooly

Jim O'Rourke

Leonard Lance

Joe Courtney

J. T. Bann

Pete Stark

Michael E. McMahon

Ken Klein

Thomas Rine

Madeline J. Bordallo

Bruce Ellsworth

Timothy J.

W. E. G.

Michael Thompson

W. E. G.

Rn Paul

James E. Somers

Matthew Gaster

W. E. G.

Brian H. Gons

Monica

W. E. G.

Mike Roy

Mike Cassidy

~~Tim Cook~~

Donna Edwards

Loeth Sanchez

Keith Ellis

Russ Holt

Greg J

Don Nason

Dana Dellette

Pat Lewis

George Miller

Lynn Woolsey

Bob Handletter

Oale E. Cildee

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Ralph M. Hall

Charles DeLoach

Donning J. Kennick

Peter Roskam

Shelley Berkley

Thomas Price

Ralph M. Hall

James J. Conaway

Dennis J. Kucinich

Donald Payne

Steve Chaffetz

Ray C. Peters

Brian E. Egan

Harold Johnson

Aminda J. Sander

John Hall

Eddie Brimshaw

Joe Daniel

Dan McPhee

Ernest L. Pace

Chris

Todd R. Platts

Jon Sabelko